

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SMI-01 HEW-08 DODE-00 IOE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 AID-20 IGA-02 SCI-06 SPM-01 COA-02 AEC-11

AECE-00 ACDA-19 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 DRC-01

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O R 301515Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2974

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0112

PASS SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FOR DILLON RIPLEY, HEW FOR SURGEON
GENERAL DOD FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN GOVERNMENT DEFENSE OF WHO-SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH

REF: NEW DELHI 10030, NEW DELHI 10111

FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE IN
THE LOK SABHA, JULY 30, AND THE RESPONSE OF THE GOVERNMENT THERETO:

QUOTE:

TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING
TO THE REPORTED CONCERN IN SECTIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY
IN INDIA ABOUT SOME RESEARCH (INCLUDING GERM) PROJECTS BEING
CARRIED OUT IN THIS COUNTRY, BY OR UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE WORLD
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HEALTH ORGANISATION UNDER CONDITIONS OF TOTAL SECRECY.....

RESPONSE: DR. KARAN SINGH MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

THERE HAS BEEN NO SECRECY WITH REGARD TO ANY OF THE RESEARCH PROJECTS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA THROUGH ANY OF ITS AGENCIES IN COLLABORATION WITH WHO. ALL THESE RESEARCH PROJECTS ARE OF DIRECT RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE TO THE COUNTRY AND ARE IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST. THESE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN INITIATED ON OUR REQUEST. IN THE FORMULATION OF THESE PROJECTS OUR EXPERTS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, AND THE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN PERIODICALLY REVIEWED BY APPROPRIATE PROJECT COMMITTEES INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH. THE RESULTS OF THESE RESEARCHES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED FROM TIME TO TIME IN APPROPRIATE SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

2. TWO SUCH PROJECTS RELATE TO THE GENETIC CONTROL OF MOSQUITOES AND THE EFFICACY OF INSECTICIDE APPLICATION BY ULTRA-LOW VOLUME MACHINE. THESE TWO PROJECTS ARE OF SPECIAL CONTEMPORARY IMPORTANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF TWO DIFFICULTIES IN OUR MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAMME, VIZ. RESISTANCE OF MOSQUITOES TO INSECTICIDES AND DIFFICULTY IN GETTING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES. THE RESULTS ON GENETIC CONTROL ARE BEING PUBLISHED FROM TIME TO TIME IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS. A COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE, INCLUDING THE LATEST RESULTS, IS BEING BROUGHT OUT SHORTLY BY THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR MALARIA AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THEIR JOURNAL. THE ENTIRE WORK ON GENETIC AND BIOLOGICAL CONTROL HAS BEEN CAREFULLY REVIEWED BY A TASK FORCE SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE. THEIR REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN 1973, AND I AM PLACING A COPY IN THE LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT.

3. THIS APPROACH OF GENETIC CONTROL IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED ONE. IN FACT SPECTACULAR SUCCESS HAS BEEN REPORTED WITH THIS TECHNIQUE IN THE MATTER OF ERADICATION OF SCREW-WORM FLY, A CATTLE PEST IN THE AMERICAS, AND THE FRUITY-FLY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREAS AND IN MEXICO. THE USE OF GENETIC CONTROL AGAINST MOSQUITOES APPEARS TO BE A PROMISING ONE, BUT CONSIDERABLE RESEARCH IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH ITS FEASIBILITY UNDER NATURAL CONDITIONS. RESEARCH ON THIS ASPECT IS GOING ON IN MANY COUNTRIES.

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4. THE APPLICATION OF INSECTICIDE BY ULTRA-LOW VOLUME MACHINES IS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTROL OF MALARIA IN URBAN AREAS, FOR WHICH PURPOSE A PORTION OF JODHPUR CITY WAS SELECTED. THROUGH THIS MACHINE IT IS POSSIBLE TO APPLY INSECTICIDES IN EXTREMELY MINUTE DROPLETS FROM OUTSIDE THE HOUSES. PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM THE REDUCTION MOSQUITO DENSITY INDICATE THAT THIS STRATEGY SEEMS TO BE EFFECTIVE. FURTHER WORK IS IN PROGRESS. THIS HAS NO CONNECTION WITH

GENETIC CONTROL AND IS ONLY AN IMPROVED TECHNIQUE FOR THE APPLICATION OF INSECTICIDES.

5. WHO WAS INTERESTED IN THE SUDY ON THE ROLE OF BIRDS
DISSEMINATING INSECT-BORNE VIRUS DISEASES. IN INDIA, THE BOMBAY
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY WAS ACTIVELY CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS ON
BIRD MIGRATIONS AND THEIR POSSIBLE ROLE AS DISSEMINATORS OF VIRUSES.
AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOCIETY, THE WHO CONTRIBUTED A TOTAL AMOUNT
OF US DOLS 22,000 FROM 1959 TO 1965. IN THIS FIELD OF STUDY A
VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION HAS ALSO BEEN MADE BY DR. G.I. METZKAY OF THE
USSR WHO VISITED INDIA IN 1962. HIS INVESTIGATIONS WERE
CARRIED OUT UNDER THE GENERAL GUIDANCE OF THE INSTITUTE OF
POLIOMYLITIS AND VIRUS
ENCEPHALITIS OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (MOSCOW) WITH THE
PARTICIPATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF SIBERIAN DEPARTMENT OF
THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE USSR (NOVESIBIRAK) AND IN CO-
OPERATION WITH THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. IT IS, THEREFORE,
CLEAR THAT THE PRESS REPORTS ARE TENDENTIOUS, UNFAIR AND MISLEADING.
END QUOTE:MOYNIHAN

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